The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

The Clarion Call

Newsletter of the Department of Massachusetts
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From the Department Commander

Brothers,

2019 was a great year for our organization and I am very proud to have served as your Commander. We have had some great successes in representing our ancestors and being seen in the community at a long list of community events. Thank you.
In one area, we still need to improve and that is the recruitment of new members. Without new members, and especially younger members, to take up the colors, we will be limited in what we can accomplish in the future. Thank you to the brothers who have recruited and sponsored new members. For the rest of us, I reiterate my initial challenge for 2019 again in 2020. Please recruit one new member to the organization in 2020. If we all bring in just one new member, we will double our ranks which will enable us to do more!
We have some great events planned for 2020 and I encourage all of you to participate in, or attend as many as possible. Let's have a great showing at all of our 2020 events.
Please plan to join us at our Annual Encampment, april 24th and 25th!
I wish each and everyone of you good health and prosperity in the new year and I look forward to working with you.
Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,
Stuart "Chip" Chambers, Department Commander

Save the Date for the Annual Department Encampment April 24th and 25th 2020

The annual Department Encampment will be April 24th and 25th 2020 in Marlborough. Please plan on attending.

Membership Drive Results

Michael Dillon (joined the Dept. of Rhode Island) sponsored by Brother Rod Fraser
Richard Jarvis (joining GEORGE L. HARTSUFF CAMP NO. 50) sponsored by Brother Rod Fraser
Michael Robey (to join the new Boston Camp) sponsored by Brother Rod Fraser
Glen Neal Jr. (joining SATUIT CAMP 3188) sponsored by Brother Conley Ford
Michael Passmoore (joining WILLIE GROUT CAMP NO. 25) sponsored by Brother Maurice Healey

Join us at the annual Lincoln Brunch Sunday, February 16th

The Department of Massachusetts, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War invites you to join us in celebrating the life and legacy of President Abraham Lincoln at our 20th Annual Lincoln Birthday Brunch on Sunday, February 9th, 2020, at 11:00 AM, at:

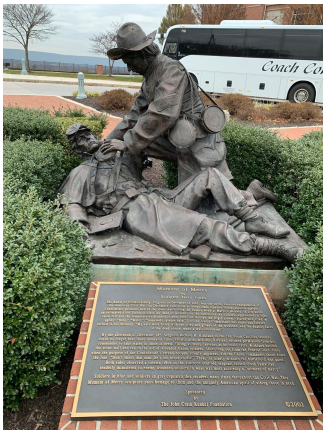
Exchange Street Bistro
67 Exchange Street
Malden, MA 02148

Our featured speaker will be
Kate Clifford Larson, PhD.
author of "Bound for the Promised Land: Harriet Tubman: Portrait of an American Hero"

Tickets are $25.00 per person and must be purchased no later than February 7th, 2020. Seating is limited. Please send a check or money order payable to "Dept. of Mass., SUVCW" to:
Kevin Tucker
58 Forest Street
Wakefield, MA 01880

Contact Kevin Tucker, PDC with any questions at (617) 678-6003 or by Email at ktsuv@outlook.com

Annual Gettysburg Remembrance Day Trip A Great Success!



On Friday, Nov. 22, 2019, we toured the National Civil War Museum. The National Civil War Museum incorporates collections of artifacts, manuscripts, documents, photographs, and other printed matter that exceed 24,000 items.
On REMEMBRANCE DAY, Nov. 23, 2019 we started the day with the SVR Breakfast and the Remembrance Ceremony where we decorated the graves of all the soldiers buried at Gettysburg and remembered them and their sacrifices with a necrology. Following the ceremony at the cemetery, was the SUVCW's annual Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Ceremony at the Woolson Monument on the Gettysburg Battlefield. President Abraham Lincoln gave his Gettysburg Address as part of this ceremony and Commander in Chief Ed Norris laid a wreath at the memorial. In the afternoon was the Remembrance Day Parade through town, which began at 1:30 PM, and ended at the Gettysburg Battlefield.
Please plan on joining us next year!

Note of Thanks from Willie Grout Camp to Brother Roy Henry

From Brother John Dupre: I would like to share with you the experience of another of our brothers Roy Henry PCC. Roy doesn't drive much anymore and so finds it difficult to get to our meetings. However when vandals damaged several tombstones in Prospect Hill Cemetery in his home town of Uxbridge, MA Roy went out to help. He found several flags that had been thrown into the woods and replaced them on the graves where they belong. Roy also flagged the Town Common and the Veterans Memorial Square and marched in Uxbridge's Veterans Day Parade. This is a fine example of Fidelity, Charity and Loyalty that any brother of our order could emulate on Veterans Day or any day.

Susie Taylor Memorial Matching Funds Challenge!

An anonymous donor has pledged up tp $700.00 towards the Susie Taylor Memorial to be erected at the Mount Hope Cemetery in Boston. The donor will match any donations from SUVCW brothers up to $700.00. If you would like to support the project, please send your donation to our Department Treasurer, Brother Dan Murray (PDC). Daniel Murray, 40 Lake Road, Brentwood, NH 03833-6206 and not “Suzie Taylor” on the check. For more information on Mrs Taylor or the project, contact Brother Rod Fraser at suvcwclarioncall@gmail.com

General Benjamin F. Butler Memorial Ceremony

On Sunday, November 3rd, the Department of Massachusetts and the 1st Military District, SVR performed their annual Memorial Ceremony for General Benjamin F. Butler at his grave in Hildreth Cemetery in Lowell, Massachusetts. With advanced press announcements, there was a great public turn-out for the ceremony, with local reporters and photographers in attendance. A short biography of General Butler was read, followed by a G.A.R. based ceremony, led by Commander-in-Chief Ed Norris. Along with CinC Norris, Brothers attending the ceremony were: Camp 104 Commander John Wilder, PDC Dan Murray, Department Commander Stuart Chambers, Camp 22 Commander Charles Lewis, Camp 5 Brother Al Smith, Camp 104 Brother Daniel Geary, Camp 5 Brother Thomas Potter, PDC Dexter Bishop and PDC Kevin Tucker.

From the Department Patriotic Instructor

Every camp commander to appoint a Patriotic Instructor. Please refer to:
http://www.suvcw.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/National-PI-Handbook-v2.1.pdf
Refer to the C&R, Chapter I, Article VIII, Section 1, for the official job description of the Camp Patriotic Instructor.
The CAMP PI must submit his reports (events and activities of the Camp from January thru December) to the Department PI no later than the date prescribed on the report form (1 April). This will allow a minimum of six weeks for the DPI to compile the data received and to prepare his report for the Department Encampment.
Please bear in mind that it is through this report (form 40) that your camp gets credit for all the hard work it does throughout the year.
Questions can be addressed to Brother London at KenLondon@comcast.net.

Our Own Carey Holmes Honored by the Daughters of The Union!

In September, Cary Holmes gave a talk at the meeting of the National Society of the Daughters of the Union 1861-65, Sgt. William H. Carney Chapter. With his knowledge of the Civil War and history, he made a great impression. On Saturday, November 9th, Commander Stuart Chambers attended their meeting at the Leonard Morse Institute Library, in Natick, where they awarded Cary with a certificate and medal. Cary was the research librarian in Natick and is now retired. Pictured from left to right: Mary M. Tedesco, Regent, Melissa Merman, Secretary, Brother cary, Department Commander Chambers and Pat T. Karajasguan, Vice Regent. Congratulations Carey!

Hearing on Redevelopment of the Chelsea Soldiers Home

The Chelsea Soldiers' Home has a long and hallowed history of serving our state's veterans. It first opened its doors in 1882 to Massachusetts veterans of the Civil War who had been wounded or unable to care for themselves, many of whom had previously resided in the Commonwealth's "alms houses." On Wednesday, December 4, 2019, a hearing was held at the Chelsea Soldiers Home to solicit public comments on plans by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to lease 8 acres of current Soldiers Home land to private developers for the erection of Veterans preference housing, ahead of seeking proposals from developers.

State Veterans Secretary Francisco Urena announced that the plans would include the demolition of all or most of the current Soldiers Home buildings, and the issuance of 99 year leases of the underlying land to private developers.

PDC Dexter Bishop was the first speaker to address the state officials. He spoke on the founding of the facility in 1883 by the Grand Army of the Republic, and the importance of keeping the Soldiers Home history prominent in and redevelopment of the facility.

Also speaking on behalf of historic preservation was PDC Kevin Tucker, who suggested that the state consider preserving one or more original buildings or preserving the existing facades and integrating them into the new construction.

Brother Al Smith of Camp 5 spoke on concerns about how many non-Veterans would be housed compared to Veterans, for whom the G.A.R. founded the facility.

Camp 22 Commander Charlie Lewis, who resides at the Soldiers Home, was also present in uniform, representing SUVCW Members who are residents.

State officials took notes on all comments, and pledged to make efforts to include concerns in the requests for proposals the state would be sending out.

WILLIE GROUT CAMP CELEBRATES VETERANS DAY

The parade began at Veteran's Inc. the former National Guard Armory which also hosts the Willie Grout Camp monthly meetings. Paul Grady -Commander of Willie Grout Camp 25 with John McAuliffe Veteran 87th ID and past Commander of Veterans of The Battle of The Bulge Chapter 22.

Shrewsbury 150th Civil War Memorial Rededication

October 26, 2019 – The Town of Shrewsbury commemorated the 150th anniversary of the dedication of its Civil War Monument by holding a program and Ceremony of Rededication at the monument on Shrewsbury Common Saturday morning.

Shrewsbury Historic District Commission Chairman John Campbell was the Master of Ceremonies for the event, which included the rededication ceremony by Commander-in-Chief Ed Norris, Department of Massachusetts Officers, the 1st Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve, Willie Grout Camp 25 and the 13th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry reenactment unit.

Featured Speakers included Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, State Representative Hannah E. Kane, American Legion Post 397 Commander Fred Russell and Shrewsbury Veterans Agent, Town Historian Michael Perna and Past Department President MaryCatherine Knight of the Department of New England Auxiliary to the SUVCW.

The Assabet Valley Technical High School Junior R.O.T.C. honor guard posted colors for the event, with Boy Scout Troop 114 leading the assembly in reciting the “Pledge of Allegiance”. The “Star

Spangled Banner" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic" were played on the bells of the First Congregational Church during the ceremony, accompanied by soloist Jeanine Vitale.
Chairman Campbell, on behalf of the Town of Shrewsbury, then turned the monument over to CinC Norris for the Rededication, which included prayers, reading of the names of the 32 Shrewsbury soldiers killed during the War, the ceremonial placing of accouterments on an empty chair, the presentation of tributes, a three volley salute by the 13th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, and "Taps", played by Camp 15 Commander Ed Knight.

Founders Award Presentation and Burial Plot Rededication in Saugus

SONS OF UNION VETERANS
OF THE CIVIL WAR
FOUNDERS' AWARD
Is Hereby Presented To
Gordon E. Shepard
In Recognition of His Work in Restoring Veterans' Burial Plots
at Riverside Cemetery in Saugus, Massachusetts, and
Especially the Burial Plot for
General E. W. Hincks Post 95
Grand Army of the Republic
In Grateful Appreciation by
The National Organization of the
Sons of Union Veterans of The Civil War

September 28, 2019 - The Department of Massachusetts held a commemoration ceremony for the work of 2019 Founders' Award recipient Gordon Shepard. The program included the presentation of the 2019 Founders' Award to Mr. Shepard by Commander-in-Chief Ed Norris, and a Ceremony of Rededication by the 1st Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve at the General Edward Winslow Hincks Post 95, Grand Army of the Republic burial plot at Riverside Cemetery in Saugus, Massachusetts.
The Master of Ceremonies for the program was Commander-in-Chief Ed Norris, who also presided over the rededication ceremony. CinC Norris was joined by National Chaplain Rev. Peter Michael Preble, Massachusetts Department Commander Stuart Chambers, New Hampshire Department Commander Michael Shklar, Past Department Commanders Kevin Tucker, George Maple, Dexter Bishop, Dan Murray and Gary Ward as well as Members of the 1st Military District from across New England.
An audience of around 200 Saugus citizens attended the event, which featured a parade by the 1st Military District, the National Anthem sung by the Saugus Sachimes, (a local acapella group) and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Saugus middle school students.
After the presentation of the Founders' Award to Gordon Shepard, short speeches were given by State Representative Hon. Donald Wong, Saugus town officials, the Saugus Veterans Council chairman, local American Legion and VFW Post Commanders, and the Saugus Historical Society.
A necrology was read aloud, containing the names of the 138 men from Saugus who served in the Civil War by members of the Veterans organizations and auxiliaries, followed by the audience joining the acapella group in singing "The Battle Hymn of the Republic".
The ceremony which followed included recitations by the Commander-in-Chief Norris, prayers by the Chaplain Preble, and an "empty chair", onto which were placed a musket, kepi, knapsack and other accouterments of a soldier.
Placing of tributes then took place, with Department Commander Stuart Chambers, PDC Daniel Murray and PDC Dexter Bishop placing wreaths and flowers on the central headstone. This was followed by three volleys from the 1st Military District rifle detail, and the playing of "Taps" by bugler Ed Knight.
A collation, catered by J. Pace & Co., was held at the Saugus VFW hall, following the event.

Christmas Party for Soldiers Home

On Saturday evening, December 7, 2019, the Department of Massachusetts held its annual Christmas party for disabled and homeless Veterans living at the Chelsea Soldiers Home, in Chelsea, Mass. Annually organized by PDC Dexter Bishop, assisted by Department volunteers, Veterans and staff were treated to a dinner of Chinese food, with great camaraderie and good cheer. Assisting PDC Bishop were Camp 22 Commander Charlie Lewis, PDC Dan Murray and his wife Linda Murray, Al Smith, joined by his two brothers, Richard Cultrera from Camp 5 and PDC Kevin Tucker.

PDC Bishop distributed presents to each Veteran, and Linda Murray distributed hand-made comforters that she collects annually for the event. Mrs. Murray also baked a delicious assortment of cookies for dessert after the meal.

The Veterans left the event with smiles on their faces and the feeling that they were remembered, honored and loved. It was a great event, and we look forward to continuing it for many years to come.